

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MAY 9, 1920.—Copyright, 1920, by The Sun-Herald Corporation.

Personal News, Facts, Fancies and Brief Happenings Abroad as Told by the Cables

PARIS ACTRESS LEADS FIGHT ON THEATRE UNION

Mme. Suzanne Despres,
Barred by Syndicate, Urges
Artists' Strike.

MAY COME TO AMERICA

Declares if Boycott Extends to
Provinces She Will Quit
France.

By LAURENCE HILLS.
Special Correspondent of THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
Paris, May 8.—Theatrical unionism in France is engaging in a battle with a woman which promises to be the most interesting and perhaps the most irreconcilable in the annals of organized labor. Her sense of justice aroused by what she considers the tyrannical rule of the theatrical unions, Mme. Suzanne Despres, one of the greatest French tragediennes, the idol of tens of thousands of Parisian theatregoers and a woman of great charm and of very intense artistic temperament, is out for a fight to the finish.

Because Mme. Despres refused to submit to restrictions imposed by the theatrical union she has been banned from the theatres of Paris. She protested vigorously against this ban and is preparing to take the lead in a nationwide theatrical strike in which the long debated issue of the employment of only "syndicate" actors and actresses in French theatres will be fought to the bitter end.

The actors' union now insists that managers employ no more than 10 per cent. of non-union talent in any one bill. Mme. Despres protested energetically against such a rule, asserting that the managers have and must retain the right to employ any one whom they consider capable of supporting his or her role properly.

The syndicate in answer to this protest instructed her managers that they must remove her name from the bills by the end of the week. The tragedienne admits that she had never opposed unions before, but now she declares most emphatically that she will never affiliate herself with them. The result of this attitude will be that no theatre can consent to present her for fear that the syndicate will retaliate by calling out the other employees.

Mme. Despres' latest role was that of the mother in the powerful drama "La Captive," by M. Erea, which was played at the Theatre Antoine. During a tragic scene in the drama in which the tragedienne made a fervid plea for motherhood she evoked such deep emotions that the audiences were held in spellbound silence and all eyes overflowed with tears.

If the provinces accept the attitude taken by the Paris union, Mme. Despres says that she will leave the French stage and seek success in Belgium, England and the United States.

The power of the stage scene shifters and other theatre workers, who represent the majority in the theatrical union, to regulate the French stage is arousing bitter comment here, in which the outcome of a state of affairs is likely to result in an exodus of all the great French artists.

The union's tendency to ignore the traditional rights of authors and actors is manifested recently when the unionized scenery workers refused to allow the continuance of Noziere's play "La Vie Est Belle," on the grounds that it contained allusions which wounded the susceptibilities of the "long suffering laborer."

In this case, however, negotiations removed many objections, and the play was taken to another theatre, where the unexpected publicity contributed in making it an unequalled success. The play's warmest commentators were found among members of other unions, who maintained that a high degree of artistic freedom is essential because of an occasional sarcastic reference to labor's ills.

SHORTAGE OF COINS DELAYS PARIS DRIVE

Authorities Postpone Mothers' Day Until May 30.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
Paris, May 8.—The shortage of bronze and silver coins in Paris caused the authorities to postpone until May 30 the Mothers of Large Families' Day, during which a drive is to be made for the benefit of others. By that time, it is expected, the new Chamber of Commerce paper money for 1 franc and 50 centimes will be in circulation.

In any kind of drive undertaken now in Paris a fine collection would result of stamps and pieces of cardboard issued by the neighborhood grocer, butcher, for small change is and has been for quite a while so scarce that the Parisians accept its absence almost as a permanent thing.

MONEYLESS MARKET IN BERLIN SUBURB

Articles Will Be Exchanged There for Food.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
Berlin, May 8.—A moneyless market has been established in Halensee, a wealthy suburb of Berlin, where farm products not on the ration lists, clothing, shoes, yarn and candies may be exchanged.

However, the principal business, it is expected, will be in eggs and vegetables. This will give an opportunity to the middle class, who are hardest hit by the increase in the price of all necessities, to obtain food in exchange for clothing and other staples.

SEMINOFF, WHO LED COSSACKS, NOW REFUGEE

'Too Drunk Most of Time to
Be Responsible,' Says
Defender.

WORST CHARGES DENIED

Confidential Report Discovered by Social Revolutionists at Vladivostok.

Special Correspondence to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
Tokyo, April 10.—Ataman Seminoff, who lured it over eastern Siberia as the chief of the Cossack triumvirate, hated by the Russians, despised by the Americans and in frequent clashes with the Czechs, and who is to-day somewhere in the Siberian hinterlands, being hunted down by the Russian Reds, has finally found a defender. This is Lieut. Bellakovskiy, formerly of the Russian intelligence service, who was detached to watch Seminoff and make a confidential report on his activities to Gen. Rosenfeld, former commander of the Vladivostok fortified zone, who was, it is worthy of note in passing, a direct subordinate of the man he was securing a report on.

Lieut. Bellakovskiy exonerated Seminoff of some of the worst charges against him, explaining that this recent commander-in-chief of all the forces of the three Primor Provinces was too drunk most of the time to be responsible for anything.

The confidential report on Seminoff was found by the Social Revolutionists at Vladivostok among the documents left behind him when Rosenfeld made hurried exit aboard a commandeered steamer when the Kolchak government crashed and the Partisans seized the coast with the various expeditionary forces looking on. It describes Seminoff as a "good man, even perhaps honest and a gentleman, but extremely weak and vacillating and easily influenced by others. He is an ambitious, fanatical Cossack who has surrounded himself only with Cossacks."

Surrounded by Criminals.

Naming the immediate circle surrounding Seminoff, the list led with the name of Gen. Major Ananasev, the military assistant, "a criminal leader of arch-criminals," and ended with that of "Mashka, the Gypsy." Seminoff's mistress, an ex-cabaret singer, who preceded him to Tokyo, Peking and Shanghai, where she lived in regal luxury and claimed to be Mme. Seminoff, Lieut. Bellakovskiy explained:

"These people have surrounded Seminoff closely with a vicious circle to prevent any outside influence reaching him, and they are drawing him to the edge of a precipice, taking the fullest advantage of his weaknesses and faults. To him the least suspicion when his debauch is possible the disturbed conditions and playing upon the false ambitions of their chief. By pretending to have unguessed in ignorance, they have isolated him from the outside world, so that even in urgent cases it is impossible to see him."

"A mad waste of tremendous sums of money in orgies and extravaganzas in carrying out the false ambitions of these 'criminals' has been accomplished by these 'protectors' of Seminoff, who frequently get their leader drunk in order to secure his signature to monstrous orders of execution and seizure, orders of which he has not the least suspicion when his debauch is over. Many of these have placed large sums of public money to their own account in Japan, and more than one has already disappeared from the circle to land in Japan for a protracted stay, with 'illness' advanced as an excuse."

Killing Foes as Bolsheviks.

"Some of the members of the inner circle, such as Tirkab, Lvov, Kryaznovsky and Stepanoff, are pure and simple murderers and hangmen. Under the claim that they were Bolsheviks these men have executed many loyal adherents of Seminoff whom they did not happen to like."

"Seminoff's intelligence department was headed by a certain Friedrichs, a man notorious in Chita as a pervert, who arrests men and women for the purpose of torturing them to gratify his low instincts. Finally even Seminoff's bandits were found to be impossible and they arrested him and forced his dismissal."

Such, according to this confidential report, was the Ataman Seminoff, a dictator, who held the power of life and death over a population of many hundreds of thousands in all the vast territory between Lake Baikal and the Pacific, a man who came within measurable distance of establishing his own kingdom in that rich section of the world under the protection of the army of Japan and who, at one time, threatened to involve the Kolchak forces in a war, first with the Americans and then with the Czechs.

To-day he is being hunted from one refuge in the Balkan Mountains to another, with his forces dwindling, while his mistress, "Mashka, the Gypsy," has just been placed under arrest at Harbin on a charge of attempting to smuggle gold bullion out of the country. This modern Jesabel, escorted by a body guard of the former Seminoff ring, tried to slip past the customs guard with a thousand pounds avoirdupois of the precious metal distributed among her various pieces of baggage, this being a part of the loot taken by Seminoff from Omak. Against her own violent protests and the indignant exclamations of her escorts that a lady should be treated with such indignity, she was searched for various trunks, locating five little boxes with the bullion.

A short time ago when Seminoff's star was in the ascendant, this being reported on reliable authority that he had on deposit in various personal accounts with Tokyo banks a total of thirty million yen, sent to Japan as a sheet anchor against misfortune. From all appearances just now Seminoff will never live to draw a check against a penny of this fortune.

A Cossack General and a Painter of Pastel Portrait Masks



Gen. Seminoff, the free lance leader in Siberia. Ivy de Verley at her easel, on which is the mask of her husband, Capt. Vesey Davoren, the first example of her new style of portraiture. Below—The mask of The O'Davoren.

OLD COLONY CLUB TO AID U. S. TRADE

Corporation Will Establish Headquarters in Many European Cities.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
London, May 8.—The American "Old Colony" International Corporation has begun an ambitious scheme for the development of American business in Europe. A London hotel has been purchased as the home of the first Old Colony Club in Great Britain. Meanwhile spacious apartments have been taken in Pall Mall, the heart of London's fashionable clubland.

Similar clubs are to be established in Antwerp and most of the European capitals, Liverpool, Glasgow and the larger Polish provincial towns. They are intended to serve as social and business rendezvous for Americans travelling in Europe. Also these Old Colony clubs will play the part of financiers and bankers, in that they will undertake to take care of the needs of Americans travelling in Europe even to the extent of finding hotel accommodations, legal aid, baggage insurance and medical advice.

A system of international travellers' checks also has been evolved. These checks, which will be issued upon the deposit of United States Government bonds as collateral, will be convertible into cash at Old Colony clubs throughout Europe.

"Old Colony clubs will provide Americans visiting in England with close contact with all phases of English life and commerce," said William A. Read, managing director of the organization, who is now in London. "For the use of business men we have started a special information bureau to supply facts about technical and industrial affairs, lists of leading firms in every line of commercial activity and directors of hotels, railroads and steamship lines all over the world."

BRITON TELLS WHAT WOMAN OF 21 IS

Advances His Reasons Against Equal Suffrage.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
London, May 8.—For the first time since the armistice France is approaching the problem of rebuilding her devastated regions in a businesslike manner. Jean Ogier, Minister of the Liberated Regions, has formed a council of experts who will direct the handling of materials, manual labor and transport in connection with the actual work of reconstruction. M. Ogier, Minister of the Liberated Regions, said that the service was swayed too much by politicians, but now would be placed under practical architects, engineers and contractors, aided by the Deputies of the liberated regions.

These men will not attempt to interfere with individual action, but on the contrary will encourage it, giving advice and information where materials and labor are most available.

M. Ogier will be assisted by M. Clavelle, formerly a Senator and at one time Minister of Public Works. The Minister of the Liberated Regions promises to bring back the devastated territory to its pre-war state within three years if the Government will give reasonable economic relief which will enable the workers to maintain their families amid the shell town ruins.

X-RAYS REVEAL OLD PICTURES.

Can Be Used to Examine Works Painted Over.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
London, May 8.—Major G. W. C. demonstrated at the Royal Institute that X-rays can be used in the examination of old masters which have been painted over by subsequent artists. By an X-ray picture he showed that the figure of the Madonna in an old Dutch master which seemed to be looking at something not existing in the canvas was actually looking at a child which had been painted out.

With the same method he showed that another Dutch painting representing a woman in the act of praying had been painted over the portrait of a monk.

PARIS SOON TO HAVE NEW STATE THEATRE

Trocadero May Be Converted Into Place for Popular Modern Plays.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
Paris, May 8.—To have another subventioned theatre in Paris the Budget Commission of Fine Arts has proposed to grant an initial aid of 100,000 francs for the development of popular plays in the Trocadero, that massive building dominating the banks of the Seine opposite the Eiffel Tower.

The project is arousing much comment in artistic circles, where it is recalled that the strike at the Opera last year was due to the inability of the State to raise the salaries of the musicians and scene shifters. There is, therefore, legitimate wonder as to how the State expects to find the funds to remodel the stage of the Trocadero so that it will accommodate big productions.

There are already four State theatres in Paris, none of which is bringing in remarkable profits, but the Fine Arts commission contends that this is another reason for the new venture, which will appeal to a clientele hitherto not reached by the Opera, the Comedie Francaise, the Odéon or the Opera Comique.

This popular theatre, like the others which are subsidized, is to be provided with a large foyer, which will be available for art exhibitions and also for benefit performances for recognized charities. But the main effort will be the production of new plays by French authors which deal lightly with modern problems but not necessarily confined to senseless musical comedy. The projects of the commission consist in the assurance of a greatly reduced admission price, for other theatres are charging three times as much as in pre-war days.

PROMISE TO REBUILD FRANCE IN 3 YEARS

Experts Hope to Restore Devastated Region.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
Paris, May 8.—For the first time since the armistice France is approaching the problem of rebuilding her devastated regions in a businesslike manner. Jean Ogier, Minister of the Liberated Regions, has formed a council of experts who will direct the handling of materials, manual labor and transport in connection with the actual work of reconstruction. M. Ogier, Minister of the Liberated Regions, said that the service was swayed too much by politicians, but now would be placed under practical architects, engineers and contractors, aided by the Deputies of the liberated regions.

These men will not attempt to interfere with individual action, but on the contrary will encourage it, giving advice and information where materials and labor are most available.

M. Ogier will be assisted by M. Clavelle, formerly a Senator and at one time Minister of Public Works. The Minister of the Liberated Regions promises to bring back the devastated territory to its pre-war state within three years if the Government will give reasonable economic relief which will enable the workers to maintain their families amid the shell town ruins.

BANISH HATS TO FIGHT COST.

Wealthy Spaniards Also Join Move to Wear Sandals.

CORDOBA, Spain, May 8.—A movement, started in the surrounding districts among the wealthier people, to go without hats and also to wear sandals made of hemp, in protest against high prices, is spreading throughout southern Spain.

Hundreds have joined the silent demonstration, which is causing considerable perturbation among tradesmen.

BELASCO ON WAY TO U. S. WITH NEW PLAYS

Expect to Please American Theatregoers With His Foreign Selections.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
London, May 8.—Among the passengers who will arrive in America by the steamship Baltic of the White Star line are David Belasco and Mme. Ivy de Verley, wife of Capt. Vesey Davoren, and who is the originator of the pastel "living mask," which has attracted much attention from artists in London. The Baltic was scheduled to steam from Liverpool last Wednesday but was delayed.

Mr. Belasco is returning home after a trip to London and Paris, where he obtained new productions for the United States. Before leaving here he expressed confidence that the plays he had found would please American theatregoers. While in London and Paris he saw most of the plays now running in these cities.

Mme. de Verley has created what might be called a new art in that she has revived the painting of masks, of which nothing has been heard in England, except the waxen ones, since the eighteenth century, when La Tour made a crayon mask of Voltaire. Her first work in this line was a mask of her husband, who was a Captain in the Seventh Suffolk and was wounded at Loos. Since then she has made pastel masks of many well known men and women. In painting that of Capt. Davoren she posed him behind a pair of curtains, between which he thrust his head.

These masks have provoked much comment. Some persons have referred to them as "a soulless travesty of art." Others have praised them. In any event, the eyes that look out from these masks are a weird, uncanny quality and seem to follow your every movement, answer your every thought. There is something sinister about them.

Mme. de Verley will go to California, where she will join her husband, who is now on the Pacific coast acting in the "movies." She expects to do portraits and masks of celebrated American motion picture actors and actresses while in California.

MAISON DU MARIAGE PROPOSED IN FRANCE

New Angle Taken to Check Population's Decrease.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
Paris, May 8.—The question of taxing bachelors in France has received a new impetus by various organized movements seeking to overcome the shrinking of the population. It is now proposed to create a "Maison du Mariage," where couples desiring to avoid the tax can meet and better appreciate their mutual frailties.

A demonstration in favor of the recognition of such an institution by the State attracted the attention of many Senators, as well as many leading figures in the Parisian political and social life. Louis Martin, Senator from the Var, deploring the diminution of the birth rate in France, urged the Government to spare no effort in convincing the younger generation that the ancient doctrine of celibacy is no longer patriotic. He declared that he would introduce in the Senate a bill to this end at the next session.

Mme. Carmen Falk, president of the French feminist movement, M. Bonzon of the Court of Appeals, and the noted scientist Dr. Bertillon are among the latest to unite in the appeal to the French public that more children are essential if France is to retain her position in world affairs.

PARISIAN EPICURES FEAST ON A LIONESS

Circus Animals and African Camels Used for Food.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
Paris, May 8.—The Parisian epicures are having a novel experience these days in sampling the flesh of animals not usually used for food. Last week a huge lioness belonging to a theatrical company was killed and its choice cuts sold in the open market at ten francs a pound.

Camels' meat is to be sold now, and very likely continued shipments of humped cows from French colonies will be arranged for if the public approves of the new food. The best cut, the butchers assert, will be cheaper than the corresponding cuts of beef, and travellers in Africa consider this meat more pleasant to the taste and equally as nutritious.

The animals now being slaughtered belonged to a circus, which obtained them from the Paris Zoo in exchange for a boa constrictor. The management of the circus, however, not being able to stand the expense of thirty francs a day for hay and grain, decided to dispose of the beasts and bought another, which is satisfied with a ration of only ten rabbits a year.

BANK OF ENGLAND WILL BE REBUILT

Old Lady of Threadneedle Street Long Has Outgrown Her Quarters.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
London, May 8.—Probably the greatest shock London has felt since the end of the war was produced by the announcement that the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street is to be rebuilt. The Bank of England has outgrown the one storied building with its black porticoes, familiar to many Americans, and is to be reconstructed as a wonderful architectural monument, seven stories in height. Owing to the present grave shortage of business offices in the City of London, however, the reconstruction will not be commenced for some time. The governors, it is said, are hesitating also for fear that such wholesale removal would dislocate the bank's business.

With the additional financial business caused by the war and the issue of the various war loans the bank staff has increased many times over. This necessitated the taking over of numerous adjoining buildings for temporary use. It is now desired to unite all these scattered departments under one roof.

The Bank of England is the oldest in Europe, for it was founded by an act of Parliament in 1694, by William Paterson, a merchant from Dumfries. Sir John Soanes modelled the building upon the classic lines of the Temple of the Sibyl in Tivoli, Italy. The original building was erected by George Simpson in 1732.

PARISIAN EPICURES FEAST ON A LIONESS

Circus Animals and African Camels Used for Food.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
Paris, May 8.—The Parisian epicures are having a novel experience these days in sampling the flesh of animals not usually used for food. Last week a huge lioness belonging to a theatrical company was killed and its choice cuts sold in the open market at ten francs a pound.

Camels' meat is to be sold now, and very likely continued shipments of humped cows from French colonies will be arranged for if the public approves of the new food. The best cut, the butchers assert, will be cheaper than the corresponding cuts of beef, and travellers in Africa consider this meat more pleasant to the taste and equally as nutritious.

The animals now being slaughtered belonged to a circus, which obtained them from the Paris Zoo in exchange for a boa constrictor. The management of the circus, however, not being able to stand the expense of thirty francs a day for hay and grain, decided to dispose of the beasts and bought another, which is satisfied with a ration of only ten rabbits a year.

LEARNER SEES NEW INVASION INT GERMANY

Predicts Ruhr Coal Fields
Will Be Occupied if
Berlin Enters Parley.

FRANKFURT REHEARSAL

German Peace Envoy Keeps
Up Campaign for Threat to
Break Off Relations.

By RAYMOND SWING.
Staff Correspondent of THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
Berlin, May 7 (delayed).—Baron von Lerner, formerly chairman of the German peace delegation, continues his campaign to have the Government threaten to break off diplomatic relations with the Entente Allies in case they occupy additional German territory. He has published an article in which he declares:

"The new note from San Remo, in proclaiming the allied right of occupation, is an attempt to make a new and serious point which is in violation of the treaty rights of the nation. It means that the British and the Italian statesmen bowed before Millerand in San Remo and gave the illegal occupation of Frankfurt and Darmstadt their belated approval. An attempt is made to serve up this breach of the peace and a new one is contemplated as tastefully as possible, in that the Allies invite the heads of the German Government to direct negotiations. That is the bait."

Is the Entente calculating correctly?

Makes a Prediction.

"The question now is, will Germany accept the invitation issued in the interests as announced, in violation of right? If so, then as certainly as two times two make four, the coal fields of the Ruhr will be occupied at the next opportunity, in any event before next winter—occupied, perhaps, for decades. "The occupation of Frankfurt was a dress rehearsal to see how the German Government would accept the invasion. The rehearsal went superbly for our opponents. The German Government did not find the one, the only correct answer—break off relations with France. "Had this answer been given, the Entente never could have proclaimed these new reservations, since the fulfillment of the Versailles treaty is primarily a question of Germany's good will."

Question of Indemnity.

The correspondent of THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD has found few persons who would hazard a statement on what Germany could pay in reparations to the Allies, although he gathered the impression that Premier Lloyd George's figure of two billion pounds sterling would be difficult to meet and that if the Germans themselves set the figure it would be lower. He also asked the question of the indemnity which the Entente never could have proclaimed these new reservations, since the fulfillment of the Versailles treaty is primarily a question of Germany's good will."

The first of these questions was, Why has Germany often violated the terms of the treaty? The second was, What guarantee can Germany give against further violations? The replies were those usually received here—namely, because the treaty makes impossible demands, and, secondly, it is the German good will to do the best under the circumstances.

One finds here little faith that the Spa conference will bring any particular improvement in the German situation, and frequently encounters the attitude that the meeting will be just one of the moves in the chess game being played by Great Britain and France, wherein Germany will be the pawn, to tell the French what the British have been saying all along; namely, that Germany is unable to pay the indemnity without first having economic aid.

FRENCH AMBASSADOR OFF TO BERLIN SOON

Maurice Herbet Had Busy Career in Foreign Office.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
Paris, May 8.—All indications point to an early restoration of the French diplomatic relations between France and Germany, which, perhaps, will be effected before Great Britain decides to replace her present Charge d'Affaires in Berlin, Lord Kilmerick, by an ambassador.

France's first post-war ambassador to Germany will be Maurice Herbet, son of the French Ambassador to Berlin of thirty years ago. M. Herbet has had a busy career in the French Foreign Office, serving first as chief of the press bureau and then as chief of the Ministerial Cabinet. Since the war he has had charge of personnel. Also he played an important part in the making of the Treaty of Versailles, being responsible for the clauses therein relating to private rights.

Aside from his personal connection with Berlin affairs, M. Herbet has gained an international reputation as a political writer, one of his most notable works being a translation and commentary on Prince von Bulow's thesis on German politics in 1914.

BACK TO THE LAND MOVE IN FRANCE

Law Proposed to Encourage Small Farming.

PARIS, May 8.—Some authorities here ascribe the shortage of foodstuffs in France to the loss of a million farm workers during the war and to the drafting of an additional 600,000 more into city activities and industries. In order to remedy the deficiency of farm labor it is proposed to pass a law which will enable farm workers to rent or buy small tracts of land. This measure has the hearty support of a large number of Deputies.

Much opposition is expected when the measure is brought up, especially from the Socialists, who favor the diminution or the elimination of individual property rights. The proposed law provides the granting of easy terms to farm workers and preferential treatment to heads of large families and veterans of the great war.

FOCH TO WARN BRITISH AGAINST GERMAN ARMY

Official Figures of France
Place Strength of Old
Foe at 644,000.

ALLY IS SCEPTICAL

More Talk of Occupation of Additional Territory Is Frowned Upon.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD.
London, May 8.—British official eyebrows were raised at the statement of the French Minister of War, Andre Lefevre, that the German armies have a strength of 644,000 officers and men. No secret is being made of the fact that these French figures do not conform to those in the possession of the British.

In connection with the official surprise at the French announcement, it is understood here that Marshal Foch is coming to London with Premier Millerand on Tuesday, immediately after the peace treaty is handed to the Turks in Paris, expressly to try to dispel British doubts regarding the French War Ministry's figures on the size of the German army.

Both the British Foreign Office and No. 10 Downing Street appreciate the importance of the Entente Allies going to Spa with a solid front on all questions of disarmament and reparations. While it was reported that Austria Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, would go to Spa as a member of the British delegation, it is now believed, probable that he will go to Brussels and not to Spa.

According to competent British opinion, the French figures on the size of the German army must be "substantially written down." The British information that the Reichswehr has 200,000 men and 400,000 officers and men and the Reichswehr 12,000 at the end of the first year after the signing of the armistice.

Aside from these 412,000 soldiers, which the British believe alone can be called troops, it is admitted that there is an unknown number of irregular volunteers in Germany. However, recent information indicates that these irregular volunteers are actually no more than badly trained constables. Furthermore, it is believed here that desertions and discharges have reduced the size of the Reichswehr since last November.

At the same time it was declared that the present condition of the German railroads makes it impossible for the Berlin Government to mobilize a force of 640,000 men.

The coming of Premier Millerand and Marshal Foch to London also will be welcomed as tending to dispel reports of an Anglo-French split. The situation of the Reichswehr has been called to these reports, which appeared in that same section of the Paris press that pursued similar tactics before the San Remo conference. M. Sauerwald's suggestion in the Reichstag that the Anglo-French conference fails to adopt means of enforcing the treaty France will be compelled to rely on her own means—implied, further occupations of German territory—was read as a very far cry on both sides of Downing Street.

AUSTRALIA TO HAVE BIG SHIP FUEL PLANT.